



With a look of concentration, Jim Hogan follows through on a hit.

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Some of the Boomerangs get together for a photo. First row, left to right: Dick Maker, Lou Bonanni, Lefty Schneiderman and Hal Justi. Second row: Paul Ballman, Jim Vogel, Pat DiMascola, Jim Carrol and manager Ed Herminghaus.

## Boomerangs: A club for the young at heart



Mac McDonald, Wes Spencer and Bill Parker (left to right) show their enthusiasm from the bench at Hoyt Field in Gulfport.

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By GARY LENTZ  
Times Correspondent

**GULFPORT** — If you've lived in Pinellas County for long, chances are you've heard of the famous softball team, the Kids & Kubs. The club, for players older than 75, will play Sunday at 1 p.m. against the Boomerangs.

And who are the Boomerangs? They're the members of the Gulfport Senior Citizens Softball Club, and they want some recognition of their own when the teams play at Hoyt Field in Gulfport.

The Kids & Kubs have been interviewed by TV stations from near and far, and have been featured in *Forbes* and *National Geographic* magazines. They have been invited to play in Japan in April.

Their less-famous counterparts, the Boomerangs, haven't been around as long as the Kids & Kubs. The Boomerangs, with members ranging in age from 43 to 85, were formed in 1972 by Dr. Colin McClellan, a former player for the Kids & Kubs.

The Gulfport club has since grown to 55 members, who play intersquad games every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 a.m. at Hoyt Field. The Boomerangs (along with a similar team from Bartlett Park) work as a farm system for the Kids and Kubs. When some of the better players turn 75, they move on to the more famous local team.

"Besides playing among themselves, the Boomerangs also enjoy taking on outside challenges," said member Bob LeMay, 59. "We often play teams from Woodlawn and Bartlett Park here in St. Petersburg, but we also play teams that

### softball

travel from as far away as Ohio to compete.

"We have beaten younger teams. Last year we beat a team put together by one of the umpire's sons. We beat these guys who were in their 20s and 30s. I guess we had the age advantage."

The club decides who will represent the team against other clubs using ability, age and dedication as yardsticks. A 14-man all-star team of players over the age of 70 has been chosen to face the Kids & Kubs.

This will be the fourth meeting between the two clubs. The Boomerangs have won the previous three meetings, edging the Kids & Kubs 8-7 last year.

"These men go out three times a week and play softball," LeMay said. "That in itself is remarkable. One fellow never played before he joined the club. We let him in. Now it's his life and he's a real competitor."

First baseman Jack Welker, 78, plays for both the Boomerangs and the Kids & Kubs. When asked which team he will represent on Sunday, Welker hedged.

"I think I'll sit out and remain neutral in this one," he said. "Both clubs are really looking forward to this matchup. Of the two teams, the Kids & Kubs are certainly the drawing card, but we're all going to be out Sunday to just have some fun and remind everyone that there are at least two great senior softball clubs in St. Petersburg."

There is no admission charge for Sunday's game, but donations will be taken, with proceeds going to local little league baseball.